

Dear Maxine,

March 9, 1988

I'm playing the recording of "Concord Sonata for Piano", by Charles Ives, which you and Dan kindly gave me for a present many years ago. It's an interesting and enjoyable piece of music, but my heart is heavy as I listen tonight. It turns out that my idol HAS FEET OF CLAY! The enclosed clippings from the N.Y. Times tell the sad tale. Apparently Mr. Ives predicated some of his compositions. Both Beethoven and Dvorak pulled this stunt before him, but their motives were not particularly reprehensible. Beethoven and Dvorak were trying to wriggle out of publishing contracts so they held out some of their master pieces until they could make a better financial deal with another publisher. Not very nice, but it happens all the time on Wall Street. What Ives did was worse, if true. By predating compositions he gets credit for innovations actually introduced, for example, by Stravinsky.

What do you think of the reader comments: "After all, his music was authentic even if he wasn't entirely authentic himself". "He always been intrigued by the relationship between Ives the artist and Ives the insurance salesman. Now it seems they were indeed the same person."

Adelaide and I often think back on the lovely birthday party celebration. It was wonderful! One of the graduate students gave me a fairly complete VCR of the Saturday evening doings. It was somewhat embarrassing to watch, especially since there were shots of myself with a perfectly inane, bemused expression on my face. Of all the speakers, Maxine, you were by far the most impressive on a second hearing and seeing.

At Cornell all of us were simply delighted by your recent award, Maxine!

Research is going rather well right now, but the pace is rather hectic. This semester I run a student lab course which takes all day Tuesday and Thursday. In my lab I have a 37 year old Chinese graduate student, a Chinese visiting scientist, an Egyptian sabbatic visitor, a Puerto Rican graduate student, a Venezuelan sabbatic visitor, a Puerto Rican undergraduate, a Chinese-American undergraduate, and two Americans, an undergraduate and a technician. Ef is doing particularly well. You recall that he was dealt a devastating blow a while back when an exciting protein kinase cascade turned out to be fraudulent data by a young associate. Well, he now is making important findings relating to interactions between regulatory protein kinase reactions and there are over one hundred publications of protein kinase cascades. A brilliant young "receptor" pharmacologist from the Vet school, Richard Cerione, comes over every Saturday to have lunch with Ef and myself. Cerione brings his gang of graduate students along and it's a pleasure to see Ef come up with bright ideas on their work.

Frances is busy as ever, now in private practice with daughter and son-in-law, in addition to entertaining a never ending succession of house guests and keeping track of a host of friends. She comforts and advises half of Ithaca. Unfortunately, more than in former times, she often looks very tired.

Adele and I send our best to you and Dan.
Sincerely,
Leon